(लाख टन में)

मास	1993	1992
जनवरी	5.35	5.50
फरवरी	5.50	5.45
मार्च	6.50	5.45
अप्रैल	6.50	5.40
मई	6.50	5.55
जून	6.75	5.75
जुलाई	6.30	5.75
अगस्त	6.00	6.15

Record Wheat Procurement

1577. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India of 1st June, 1993 wherein it has been stated that the record wheat procurement in the country during the current marketing season may lead to an inadequacy of stocks and high prices in the open market during the lean period; and

(b) what are the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The procurement of wheat for Central Pool comprises only 15 to 20% of the total production in the country and major part of the production remains available in the open market. Open market prices are dependent on the relative position of overall supply and demand of foodgrains in the market. Government has been closely monitoring the prices of foodgrains and would take as and when found necessary all measures such as market intervention, higher allocations of wheat from Central Pool to States/Union Territories for Public Distribution System, etc.

Clearance of Cane Growers Dues

1578. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :
Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the reduction in levy sugar from 45 per cent to 40 per cent in respect of existing mills and an eight year levy holiday in respect of new mills, sugar mills' arrears of dues to the cane growers did not come down nor were these concessions reflected in retail sugar prices and the prices actually rose up during April-May, 1993; and

(b) if so, what steps were taken to ensure clearance of cane growers dues indicating the arrears at the end of March, April, May and June, 1993 and the retail sugar prices at these stages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) and (b) Levy holiday announced in the new Incentive Scheme is in respect of sugar mills which are to be newly established. The reduction in the levy sugar ratio from 45% to 40% during 1992-93 season has improved the financial viability of the existing sugar mills. This is reflected in position of cane price arrears for the season 1992-93 which have declined from 21.0% as on 28-2-93 to 4.0% as on 30-6-93.

The price of freesale sugar in the open market depends upon the quantum of releases, market sentiments, prevailing prices, availability of other sweetening agents etc. With appropriate releases, the sugar prices in open market have now been stabilised to some extent.

The cane price arrears, as also the range of retail prices of sugar in the four principal markets of the country (i.e. Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras), at the end of March, 1993, April, 1993, May, 1993 and June, 1993 were as under :—

At the end of	Cane price arrears 1992-93 season (Rs. crores)	Range of retail prices of S—30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets (Rs./Kg.)
March 93	544.61	9.50—11.50
April 93	379.18	10.00—12.00
May 93	205.95	11.00—12.75
June 93	164.48	10.20—12.00